The Corporation of The City of London
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

London Working with Federal Agencies to Protect Trees from Emerald Ash Borer

City staff and officials from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) today briefed City Council on their cooperative efforts to protect London's trees from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

"We need the community's help to save London's trees," said David Leckie, Director, Roads and Transportation. "The City is working with CFIA to inform the public about precautions that prevent the movement and unsafe disposal of infected wood."

Following the discovery of three infected trees in November 2006, CFIA restricted the movement of ash trees, ash tree materials or firewood of any species from properties within a 10 kilometre wide quarantine zone that includes portions of White Oaks, Byron, Oakridge, Whitehills, Masonville, Old North, Downtown and Old South London.

The City's response to the Emerald Ash Borer includes:

Public education to inform residents about the pest and how to prevent its spread,
- New, CFIA-approved approaches to ash management and the collection and processing of yard waste, and
- Support for federal government research into new management approaches.

Cutting large numbers of ash trees in an effort to control EAB is not being considered by either the City or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency because, at low levels of infection, like we have identified to date, identifying and cutting the small number of infestations is appropriate. We will only cut ash trees that pose a safety concern as part of our regular tree maintenance program and those that have been identified as infected. Ash trees that are suspected of having the EAB will be evaluated by trained inspectors and then treated appropriately based on the results of the inspection. We will re-evaluate our management options after the results of the summer EAB surveys are completed and will ensure that the control measures are both timely and appropriate.

The Emerald Ash Borer is a highly destructive insect pest that originates from China and eastern Asia. It first appeared in Michigan in 2002 and has since been found in London on a single property. The Federal Government's Canadian Food and Inspection Agency is responsible for the prevention of pest infestations. The Corporation of the City of London takes direction from CFIA on these matters and acts accordingly.

For more information about the Emerald Ash Borer go to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website or call the CFIA's Toll Free number: 1-866-463-6017. There is also a frequently asked questions page at www.london.ca.